

Message Text

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SUBJ: THE JULY SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIS-
CUSSES THE EC-PORTUGAL ADDITIONAL AND FINANCIAL
PROTOCOLS

1. DURING ITS JULY PLENARY SESSION, THE EUROPEAN PARLIA-
MENT (EP) BRIEFLY DEBATED EC-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE ADDITIONAL AND FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS OF
SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 TO THE 1972 EC-PORTUGAL AGREEMENT.
THE ISSUE WAS RAISED BY THE EP SOCIALIST GROUP, WHICH
ASKED THE EC COUNCIL WHETHER THESE PROTOCOLS, WHICH WOULD
PROVIDE PORTUGAL WITH SOME 200 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT
(1 U.A. EQUALS \$1.24) OVER FIVE YEARS, HAVE BEEN RATIFIED
BY THE EC MEMBER STATES. SUCH FUNDS, THE SOCIALIST GROUP
CONTENDED, ARE SORELY NEEDED TO HELP SHORE UP PORTUGAL'S
FALTERING ECONOMY.

2. REPLYING TO THE QUESTION, EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT VON
DOHNANYI (GERMAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS)
REVEALED THAT ONLY FIVE MEMBER STATES--DENMARK, FRANCE,
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ITALY, IRELAND AND THE UK--HAVE SO FAR RATIFIED THE
PROTOCOLS. WHILE RECALLING THAT RATIFICATION PROCEDURES
REST WITH THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, HE POINTED OUT
THAT THE DELINQUENT MEMBER STATES HAVE NEVERTHELESS BEEN
PERIODICALLY REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING
THE PROCESS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. DURING THE ENSUING DEBATE, SEVERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE SLOWNESS IN RATIFYING THE PROTOCOLS. THEY EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF A SUSTAINED EC INTEREST IN PORTUGAL NOW THAT IT HAS APPLIED TO JOIN THE EC, AND SAID THE EC SHOULD DO WHAT IT CAN TO ENSURE THAT PORTUGAL BECOMES ECONOMICALLY FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE COMMUNITY. THE EARLY RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOLS, THEY NOTED, WOULD CONSIDERABLY FACILITATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THAT OBJECTIVE.

4. JOINING IN THE DEBATE, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT NATALI ALGO REGRETTED THE SLOWNESS IN EC MEMBER STATE RATIFICATION OF THE ADDITIONAL AND FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE EC MUST RESPOND POSITIVELY TO PORTUGAL'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS ECONOMY. HE SUGGESTED THAT AT THE OUTSET OF THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, THE EC CONSIDER PROVIDING EARLY ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THAT COUNTRY IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE NECESSARY STRUCTURAL CHANGES WHICH WILL ENABLE IT TO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMMUNITY. HINTON

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